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# THE Birth, Parentage, and Education, Life and Conversation OF Mr. *Christopher Slaughterford*,

Who was Executed at *Guilford* in *Surrey*, on *Saturday* the 9th of *July*, 1709. for the Barbarous Murther of *Jane Young* his Sweetheart.

*With an Account*

Of his Courtship, and manner of the said Murther, with the strange Discovery thereof. His Apprehension and Commitment: His Tryal at *Kingstone* Assizes, and Acquitment: His being Try'd a second time upon an Appeal at the *Queens-Bench-Bar*, *Westminster*: His Condemnation and Sentence there: His Behaviour in Prison: His Confession and True last Dying Speech at the Place of Execution.

AS ALSO,

A True Copy of a *PAPER* that he gave to the Sheriff at the Place of Execution.

*Licensed according to Order.*

*London*: Printed by *A. Hinde* in *Fleet-street*, 1709.

# THE

## *Life and Converſation, Birth, Parentage, and Education of* Chriſtopher Slaughterford.

*Chriſtopher Slaughterford*, the unhappy Subject of our enſuing Diſcourſe, was Born at *Weſtborne-Green* in the County of *Suſſex*, in the Year 1684, of very Honeſt and Reputable Parents, his Father being a Farmer of conſiderable Subſiſtance; who gave him Education ſuitable to his Birth and Qualification, bringing him up in the Principles of the Church of *England*; who, as he grew up, employ'd him in the way of making Malt, which he manag'd to the ſatisfaction of all his Relations, being look'd upon to be a hopeful and civil Young Man, no way given to Swearing or Drunkenneſs, Vices too common to Youth in this degenerate Age: But at laſt that inviſible Urchin *Cupid*, levelling his ſharp Arrows at his tender Breaſt, made ſuch a Wound in his Heart, as not only prov'd Mortal to himſelf, but the Ruin of one that lov'd him more than her own Life, as will appear by the following Tragical Relation.

For he fell in Love with one Jane Young, a very pretty Maid-Servant, whom he Courted under pretence of making her his Wife; but having gain'd her Affections, and obtain'd his Desire, he slighted her to such a degree, that the poor Maiden was very much griev'd at his Ingratitude; which he taking notice of, and at the same time making choice of another Mistress, it aggravated her Sorrow so much that she would not be satisfied till he made good his Promise of Marriage to her; whose repeated importunity oblig'd him to dissemble with her again, by saying that he lov'd her more than ever, assuring her what he had done relating to his new Mistress, was only to try her Affections, so that she might depend upon him for a faithful Lover: But Lover like, being a little jealous of his sincerity, she still urg'd him to Marry her, which to pacify her, he promis'd to perform, appointing the very Wedding-Day, and to make his Pretences the more plausible, he bought himself new Cloaths, and order'd her to do the like, which was done accordingly.

The appointed Day of Marriage being come, he met her at the Time and Place as he had promis'd, at a Publick House about Three Miles from Guilford: where she staid from Sunday till Tuesday Morning for him, that being the Day of Appointment; at which time he seem'd mighty fond of her, and told her he was come to put her out of all Doubts, wondering how she could harbour an ill thought of him that lov'd her so dearly; and thereupon told her,

that he design'd to be Married with her the next Morning, and accordingly they went to a Dancing that Evening, where they ſtaid all Night and the next Morning went away together; but ſhe was never ſeen no more alive, only by ſome Paſſengers that ſaw them go over a Common very early that Morning, but no more afterwards till ſhe was found Murther'd in a Pond.

So that ſome Days after her Friends miſſing her, caus'd the ſaid *Chriſtopher Slaughterford* to be taken up on Suſpicion, becauſe he was the laſt Man that was ſeen with her; but no proof being made of it, he was diſmiſs'd for that time; but ſhe being found about three Weeks after Murther'd in a Pond, he was again taken into Cuſtody and committed to Priſon upon the ſame Account, and Try'd for the ſaid Murther at *Kingſtone* Aſſizes, but for want of poſitive Witneſs he was acquitted of the Murther by the Country Jury: However, the Friends of the Deceaſed not being ſatisfy'd, he was continu'd in the *Marſhalſeas-Priſon* till a Brother of the Deceaſed brought an Appeal againſt him; ſo that he was removed by a *Habeas Corpus* to the *Queens-Bench-Bar*, *Weſtminſter*, where the Appeal was Argu'd ſeveral times the laſt Term but one, and this preſent Term the Appeal was made good, by vertue of which he was Try'd on *Saturday* the 25th of *June*, 1709. before the Lord Chief Juſtice *Holt* and the reſt of the Judges at the *Queens-Bench-Bar*, being brought into that Court about Ten a Clock in the Morning. At which time the Court being ſat, his Indictment being Read, and the Jury Sworn, they proceed to Tryal, as followeth

The firſt Evidence was *Elizaberh Chapman*, the Miſtreſs of *Jane Young*, who told her ſhe was going to be Married, and had bought New Cloaths, accordingly ſhe went to meet *Slaughterford* on *Sunday* Morning

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The People of the House where they met, about three Miles from *Guilford*, depos'd, That she staid for him there till *Tuesday*, at which time he came, staid all Night, went to a Dancing thereabouts, and came and lay there that Night at that House, the Sign of the *White-Horse* at *Sleer*, from whence they went the next Morning, he first, and she after him.

Another Evidence declar'd, That he saw 'em afterwards on the Road together: It was also prov'd that the Deceased (whilst he was at the Mayor's Feast) she desir'd to stay at a Taylor's House in *Guilford*: The same Evidence, a Boy said, That late at Night *Slaughterford* fetch'd her away, and went toward his own House with her. Another Evidence depos'd, That he met a Man and Woman about Three a Clock in the Morning going toward the Pond, and the Man had Light Colour'd Cloaths on (as *Slaughterford* had) and that afterwards he heard a great Cry like the Shrieking of a Woman, and that he verily believ'd by the Voice of the Man that spoke to him as he past by, it was *Slaughterford*, speaking in a very feint Voice, which it seems *Slaughterford* do's.

His own Man declar'd that coming at three or four of the Clock in the Morning to work, he found his Master there, who told him he had been up all Night.

The Body was found after it had lain six Weeks, the Cloaths she had on were the same that she had when *Slaughterford* was with her: It appear'd that she had three Wounds in her Head, two of which were to her Skull, as the Chyrurgeon depos'd, the other in the Shape of her Neck; her Hat was produc'd, thro' which the Wounds had been made. The Coroner depos'd, that viewing the Ground about the Pond, he observ'd the print of a Man's Foot, and of a Woman's: Another Evidence depos'd, That *Slaughterford* told him he never

never saw that Woman (meaning the Deceas'd) till that time he met her at the *White-Horse* at *Sleer*.

Other Evidences prov'd many Circumstances against him, particularly one, who depos'd, that asking him what was become of his Whore, he answer'd, *I have put her off, d'ye know ever a Girl that has Money your way, I have got the way of putting 'em off now.*

Another before the Murder was discover'd, ask'd him what if he should lay such a Child to him as mine is here (shewing him it) he sigh'd and said *that it was impossible*, and cry'd till the Tears ran down his Cheeks. Others depos'd he said in Goal, that if it had not been for his Aunt, and a Boy his Cousin, to prove that he lay at Home all that Night, he had been cast at *Kingstone*, but her Evidence appearing to be very indifferent, many were call'd to his Reputation, but said little to the purpose. The Tryal lasted till Four a Clock, when the Jury having been out a considerable time, brought him in Guilty of Murther.

On the second Day of *July*, after many Arguments between Councel Learned in the Law about the time, place, and manner of the Murther; the Arrest of Judgment upon the Appeal being set aside, Sentence of Death was pronounc'd against him, at the *Queens-Bench Bar, Westminster*, and from thence was sent to the *Marshalsea Prison* in *Southwark*, where he remain'd till *Friday* the 8th of *July*; during which time abundance of Good Christian People came to visit him, among whom were several Ministers, as well *Dissenters* as Churchmen, who all endeavour'd to bring him to an acknowledgment of the Fact for which he was Condemn'd but all to no purpose; for he positively deny'd it to the very last, offering to take the Sacrament upon it, that he was free from the Guilt of the deceas'd's Blood. On *Thursday* the 7th instant, being the Even-ing before he was carry'd to *Guilford* to be Execute-

I my self, with a Dissenting Minister of *London*, took a great deal of pains to convince him of the Necessity of making a Confession, and how fatal it would prove to his Soul, if he went out of the World with a Lye in his Mouth, at which time (his Mother being then present) he said, that as he expected Mercy and Salvation, he neither directly nor indirectly was any way concern'd in the said Murther, or knew how the deceased came by her Death: Upon which I ask'd him how far it was from the place he parted with *Jane Young*, on the 24th of *October*, to the Pond where she was found Murther'd, he said about Seven Mile, tho' it was sworn at his Tryal not above Three; adding, that not only that, but many other Things swore against him at the *Queens-Bench Bar*, were utterly false; however (he said) he freely forgave them, as he did all the World. The Dissenting Minister then ask'd him, in my hearing, what he meant by demanding *whether a Person not confessing a Crime to Men, but only to God, could not be saved*. His Answer thereunto was, that he ask'd that Question only out of an unadvised Curiosity, in order, as he conceiv'd, to prevent all further unnecessary Trouble, about extorting a Confession from him which he knew nothing of, or words to that effect, but still persisted to the very last, that he was wholly Innocent of that Barbarous Murther; and withal assur'd me that should be his Resolution at the Place of Execution, as long as he had any Breath in his Body.

Upon which I desir'd him, to prevent all false accounts of his Confession, to call in all the Papers that had been extorted from him, and to deliver only one to the Sheriff of the County, as his last and true Confession at the Place of Execution, and there openly declare before all the People, other Accounts to be Counterfeit, otherwise it would be difficult

difficult to distinguish the True from the False ones; to which he chearfully agreed, and promised me t do it, and that he would appoint *Andrew Hinde* i *Fetter-Lane* to Print it, sign'd with his own Hand to prevent the Publick from being impos'd upon a ter his Death by Sham Papers.

On *Friday* the 8th instant he was carried in a Coach from t *Marshalsea-Prison* in *Southwark* to *Guilford* in *Surry*, in order f his Execution there, according to his Sentence; and on *Saturd* the 9th of *July*, about Noon, he was convey'd to the Place Execution, where he still insisted on his Innocency, and den the Murther to the very last Moment; and thereupon deliver Paper to the Sheriff of the County, wherein (he said) was co tain'd all that he had to declare to the World, which in Substa was to this Effect, *viz.*

That not having the Gift of Eloquence, he had left his Mind Writing, in order to be publish'd after his Death, that the Wo might be satisfied how much he had been wrong'd, and made Author of a Murther he knew nothing of, desiring God Almig to forgive those who had been the occasion of his Death; addi that he dy'd in Charity with all the World, so he hop'd none wo resented on his Mother and the rest of his Relations, on the Acco of his Misfortune, after his Death, not doubting but Divine P vidence would, in due time, convince every Body of his Inno cy, by bringing to light the treacherous Practices of Mrs. Young's De calling God to Witness, before whom he was going to appe receive a just Sentence for all his Sins; that he was no way c cern'd in that Barbarous Murther, desiring God to forgiv those who had maliciously or unadvisedly been the Cause o Death, and that they might live to Repent of such a Wi n. ss.

Sign'd *Clr. Slaughter fo*

After having join'd in Prayer with the Minister, and finish private Devotions, he was turn'd off just as he was calling God to receive his Soul.

*Guilford, July 9, 1709.* *William Price*, Mini

NOTE, *A True Copy of the Paper that was deliver'd Sheriff of Surrey, will be Publish'd at large on Tuesday n A. Hinde in Fetter-Lane near Fleetstreet.*

FINIS.